

## W. Side tunnel vision now reality

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*Posted:* July 16, 2010

### Breakthrough!

A giant spinning drill bit smashed through a bedrock wall 40 feet beneath the Port Authority Bus Terminal yesterday, completing a new tunnel for the extension of the No. 7 line to the West Side rail yards.

At 4:14 p.m., what had been a loud, rumbling roar quickly changed to the sound of metal scraping rock as the last inches of Manhattan granite crumbled away.

"It was really amazing!" said Mayor Bloomberg, who was among the crowd assembled on the tunnel floor to watch as the job was finished.

Sandhogs and other construction workers let out a loud cheer upon the tunnel's completion.



**'BORING' IS EXCITING:** Sandhogs celebrate their dramatic breakthrough on the No. 7 train tunnel yesterday.

Some celebrated by crawling from the boring machine's cockpit through an opening on the front of its flat-faced drill bit -- becoming the first to travel through the tunnel's full length.

Twin boring machines began digging out the double-tube tunnel in February 2009 below 11th Avenue near 26th Street.

Surveyors pinpointed the machines' depth so closely, the machine that made the final breakthrough yesterday in the tunnel's western tube broke exactly through a target workers had painted on granite.

The \$2.1 billion project, which will connect the current line to a station on 11th Avenue and West 34th Street near the Javits Center and the planned Hudson Yards development, is on track for opening in December 2013, officials say.